(b) New zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating / administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations.

(c) Some States including Kerala have requested for separate zone. As of now, no decision to form a new zone has been taken.

Upgradation of passenger amenities

1608. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after upgradation of Railway station, the passenger amenities and appropriate passenger facilities would also be upgraded;

(b) if so, why in Orissa the facilities have not been upgraded even though many railway stations have already been upgraded; and

(c) whether Railways have plan to extend the railway platforms of Jajpur Keonjhar Road and also increase and upgrade the passenger amenities such as foot-overbridge, platform shed, bathroom, rest-rooms in Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Korai Bandallo, Baitarani Road, Jakhopura and Jenapur railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations commensurate with increase of passenger amenities is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. Out of 258 stations in Orissa, 40 stations have already been provided with upgraded passenger amenities.

(c) Work of extension of platforms has been completed at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station. Further upgradation works have been taken up which include construction of foot over bridge at Baitarani Road, provision of 2 bay platform shelter at Jakhopura, provision of 2 bay platform shelter and deluxe toilet at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and extension of foot over bridge and provision of 1 bay platform shelter at Jenapura. These works are planned for completion by March, 2010. As regards Korai station, Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) have already been provided as per norms.

Employment of dependants of victims of Coromandal Express accident

1609. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had offered employment to the dependants of the victims of Coromandal Express in Orissa on 12/13th February, 2009; and

(b) if so, the number of persons who had died in the accident, the number of persons who have applied for appointment in the Railways and the progress, so far, made to provide suitable appointments to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No employment has been offered as the extant rules do not provide for employment to dependants of victims of train accidents. However, one case of employment is under process on compassionate ground for the ward of the railway employee of Khurda Road Division who died in the accident. This case is covered under the rujes of compassionate ground appointments on Railways.

Eastern dedicate freight corridor

1610. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of eastern corridor part of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project;

(b) the total cost of the eastern freight corridor project and tentative schedule of completion:

(c) the funding pattern and debt equity ratio of the DFC project;

(d) the total land required for the project;

(e) whether any construction work has started beyond Sonnagar towards Dankuni; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor and expected date of commencement of the work in the above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni near Kolkata covering a length of 1806 Kilometers is expected to cost, as per present estimates, approximately Rs.22,196 crores. The requirement of land for the Ludhiana-Sonnagar portion is approximately 4300 hectares and that for Sonnagar-Dankuni would be known after the completion of Final Location Survey. Notification for land acquisition under Section 20-A of the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008, for Ludhiana-Sonnagar Portion, has been issued for about 3,300 hectares. The debt-equity ratio of the project would be within 2:1 and funding from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been sought for the Project. The first construction contract for 105 Kilometers from New Karwandia to New Ganjkhwaja of Sonnagar-Mughalsarai section has been awarded. The tentative schedule of completion of the project, subject to availability of land and funds, is 2016-17.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Work would commence only after completion of Final Location Survey work.

Operating ratio of railways

1611. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: